UP TO JULY 5, 1968

3,024 U.S. gircraft were downed in North Viet Nam

VIETNAM

July 8 1968 No 172

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U.S. WITHDRAWAL FROM KHE SANH

A PUBLIC ADMISSION OF U.S. STRATEGY'S FIASCO

Na communiqué issued in Saigon on June 27, the U.S. Command announced that its troops had begun evacuating Khe Sanh. Gisi Phong Fresz Agency continued the fact and gave the first balance-sheet of enomy Jossei in this sector, which we in this sector, which v

Thus, the first important move taken by General Abrams as C-in-C of U.S. forces in South Viet Nam was forces in South Viet Nam was to abandon this forward post, a "western anchor to a line of forts" installed by his predecesor since mid-4966 and strung out parallel to the tamporary military de-marcation line, along Highway No 9. The reason given by the U.S. Command for this withdrawal was according to the U.S. Command for this withdrawal was, according to withdrawal was, according to Reuser, rather simple. She Shan the heavy Believe it or not, as you like, but one could hardly forgat that pathetic meeting held not long ago at hardly forgat that pathetic meeting held not long ago at his chiefe of staff to give a written pledge to hold on at all coats to this valley located in the sortenes morth wastern to of South Vest Nam.

THE LONGEST SIEGE. THE FIERCEST CONFRON-TATION OF THE WAR

THE siege of Khe Sanh by the P.L.A.F. practically began on January 20, shortly before the Tel simultaneous uprisings and general offensive. Since then, the enemy forces had got no

breathing space in this sector. Operation Pegarns in April involving 15,000 men, mostly G.I.'s of the First Cavalry, was but a fulle effort and costly at that in terms of human lives and material damage. A force of some 6,000 Marines remained under siene and constant some 6,000 Marines remained under siege and constant threat of destruction in spite of a gigantic effort made by the U.S. artillery and air

force.

Assailed with a deluge of steel and fire which far surpassed in intensity all the steel and fire which far surpassed in intensity all the far steel and the steel and the far steel and of combat: wrping out enemy man-power and material reserves with mortar and artillery fire, assaulting or besteging positions, cutting land, air and rives supply routes, intercepting enemy reinforcements, etc... In abort, the battle of Khe Sanh has been not only the longest siege but also a direct conception of the control of the cont stegs but also a direct con-frontation between the con-tending forces, as far as the morale and value of the troops and the operational direction and fighting tech-nique are concerned.

From this 22 week-long duel, P.L.A.F. have come out victorious by putting out of action 15,000 en my troops

(or 100 men per day reliud-ing 11,700 G. and shooting down dayloying or damaging to differant, 1000 vehicles and or pieces of artillery. 27

MOVING INTO RHE SANH, LE STRATEGIC LOSSI-

WESTMORE AND set up ESTMORUZAND set up this base in Autumn 1956 after he had been forced to put off size die the occupation of the Mekang Delta by U.S. troops, planned for the "second dryseason offensive." Thus the more was taken in a situation of strategy nasilvity, somemove was taken in a situation of strategic passivity, something which badly affected the subsequent development of the operations in this sector, as well as in the whole area north of Quang Tri province with the bases of Cua Vist, Dong Ha, Doc Micu, Cob Tien, Hill 24s or Caton, Carroll (heavy settilery base). The U.S. Command always considered the Khe Sanh combat base the keystone

(Continued bage 8)

* According to the western press, during the first 80 days of the siege, the Americans dropped 115,000 tons of ordiaropped 113,000 tons of over-mary bombs (the same amount was used against Japan during World War II) and fired 101,741 thells in direct sup-port of their troops at Khe Sanh.

South Viet Nam

- One Week After Khe Sanh Evacuation Order, the Yankees Still Fail To Pull Out Completely and Suffer 700 Casualties.
- A Puppet Battalion Wiped Out, Two Others Decimated North-East of Saigon.
- Biggest Bridge in Mekong Delta Blown Up.
- . O Div. Americal H.Q. Stormed.

DEEDS. Mr JOHNSON

R Harriman was not present at the tenth status, and the sent status. But it is not this address him today; there is a time for questions, and then a time when anxiever must come. I know that the real sunterpresent the sent status of the sent

I may be told that the President of the United States has clearly stated his inten-tions a long time ago and that his will for peace has manifested itself in many a manifestal istall im many a speech. Who dossn't remember the famous Baltimore speech? It was the 7th of April, 1965, two mouths after the start of savage bombings on the w.r.r.N. Did anyone con-hear the president of a super-power speak with such mo-datty, nay such humility? He simply asked for negotiations, without any pre-conditions

daty, may seek munistry? ressupervised the proceedings of the seek of the se

(Continued page 2)



U.S. aircraft downed by P.L.A.F. at Khe Sanh

"THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE PEOPLE HAS THE INALIENARIE RIGHT TO INTENSIFY RESISTANCE TO U.S. AGGRESSION"

- South Viet Nam N.F.L. Statement

zones of our country and creating obstacles to the Paris

talks between the D.R.V.N

and the U.S.

THE Presidium of the Cen-tral Committee of the South Vist Nam National Front for Liberation issued on June 26 a statement reasserting the South Vietnamese people's inalienable right to step up their struggle against U.S. aggression, for national salvaaggression, for national salva-tion and the liberation of South Viet Nam.

The statement reads in full as follows:

"Developing their victorious mettle and their strong position, the South Vietnam-ese people, since the Lunar Veer have staged New Year, have staged many simultaneous uprisings and, skilfully combining armed attacks with popular insurrections, have dealt mor-tal blows at the U.S. agree-ors and their benchmen, and won very big victories, driv-ing the enemy into an utter predicament.

"The populations of Saigon, Cho Lon Gio Dinh, and other urban centres, in co-ordinaforces have fought vigorously and hit with great precision series of military bases and nerve centres of the enemy, causing heavy losses to them

reemediable collapse U.S. aggressors and the Thieu-Ky clique of traitors have frenziedly dumped bombs, shells and gas on heavily populated areas in over \$30 towns, province capitals and towns, province capitals and townships in South Viet Nam. killing or wounding tens of thousands of civilians and rendering homeless hundreds

of thousands of others. Thay have caused heavy destruction to Hue, a city with many cultural and historical relica Viet Nam, and destroyed or Viet Nam, and destroyed over 30,000 dwelling houses in the Saigon-Cholon-Gia Dinh area. Recently, they went so far as to delineate "free bombing zones" which include ing their cypical scheme to ssacre civilians.

"In face of the condemnation "In face of the condemnation by the Vietnamese people and the whole world's peoples, the U.S.-puppets and their propaganda machine are spreading impudent slanders, in an attempt to make black white, to put the blame on the patriotic armed forces for the losses of civilian lives in South Vietnamese towns.

"This is but a customary rick of 'thief crying stop hief' of the U.S. aggressors and their ouislines.

"Everybody knows that for more than 10 years now the whole policy of the U.S. in South Viet Nam - from overt intervention to a 'special war then a 'local war' conducted with the most inhuman genocidal methods - been spear-beaded at the 14 million South Victnamese people with the Nam into a neo-colony and military base of the U.S. Not a single hamlet, not a single town, not a single bush, not a single tree in this land of South Viet Nam is without a mark of the U.S. - puppet

all policy. Not a single family is left without at least one member killed or wounded by their bombs, gas and extremely ruthless repression. There is no denying that the U.S. aggressors and their lackays are the slaughterers of South Vietnamese, people. It is they who have been for more than a years now bor-more than a years now bormore than a years now bomb ing and straing the Demo-cratic Republic of Vist Nam fiercely, massacring people both in the countryside and

"The South Viet Nam Na-tional Front for Liberation once again affirms that since the U.S. has invaded South Viet Nam and has been indulging in massacres of the people, the latter must resist them and drive them out of "More than ever before, the "More than ever before, the 14 million South Vietnamese people, direct victim of the U.S. war of aggression, are duly punishing their enemy. Under the leadership of the National Front for Liberation, the South Viet Nam populathe country to regain inde pendence and freedom and save the Fatherland. It is a sacred, inalienable right to self-defence of the Vistnamese the South Viet Nam popula-tion of all strate are bringing their sacred war of resistance against U.S. aggression, for national salvation to a high level. The South Viet Nam people. As long as the U.S. continues its aggression, the Vietnamese people will carry on their fight. patriotic armed forces, the sons and daughters of the people who foster, assist and shelter them and join actions "The U.S. must stop its

aggression, withdraw all troops of its own and its satellites from South Viet with them, are waging an extremely valiant fight, attacking the enemy in all parts of South Viet Nam, including the towns, his last hide-outs. The enemy Nam and leave the South Nam and leave the South Vietnamers people to settle themselves their internal affairs in accordance with the Political Programme of the South Viet Nam National have raised clamours and concoeted the fantastic story of the 'massacre of civilians' Front for Liberation, without ign interference. The U.S. by the patriouc the patriotic armed must stop completely and permanently the bombing and frightened by the punishing other acts of war against the D P V N and bee no right to "It is evident that though

"The just cause of the Vietthe U.S. aggressors and their namese people which is en-joying sympathy and support from progressive mankind will henchmen have sustained heavy defeats, they are still stubborn and perfidious. They insolently demand that our people stop fighting against aggression, and are preparing public opinion for a fresh escalation of the war in both

ON July 1, the Foreign Ministry of the Demo-cratic Republic of Viet Nam also issued a statement Nam also issued a statement "sternly condemning and strongly denouncing to world opinion the crimen committed by the U.S. aggressors and their benchmen against the South Vietnamese people as well as the entire people of Viet Nam."

It stressed: "The Government of the D.R.V.N. fully supports the June 26, 1968 statement by the Presidium of the Central Committee of Front for Liberation, asserting the South Vietnamese people's imprescriptible right to step up their fight against U.S. aggression, for the liberation of South Viet Nam. Under the Front's banner, and with considerable assistance of our countrymer ance of our countrymen throughout the country and of our friends in all continuits, the South Viet Nama roused forces and people, promoting to the fullest their winning and strong position, will be undoubtedly able to inflict on the U.S. aggressors and the puppets fresh fatal blows, and lead the revolution for lib-ration the revolution for liberation of South Viet Nam to total

PARIS TALKS' ELEVENTH SESSION and a realistic more, namely to stop aggression signate V text Nam, and let to the Victanaese people settle themselves the realistic transparent of the leaders of the leaders of the stop of the leaders of the lea

THE 11 th session of the official conversations between the re-presentative of the D.R.V.N. Government and that of the U.S. overnment was held in Paris on July v. rofs.

Minister Xuan Thuy spoke first He pointed out that the U.S. side which was waiting obdurately for "an appropriate time and circumstance" age 'the U.S. bombings of the D.R.V.N., in fact kept setting conditions for a bombing halt - a legitimate demand of the Vietnamese people and public opinion.

He pointed to the absurdity and deceitfulness of Mr Johnson's March the cessation of bombing "would endanger the lives of our men." The above American allegation, Mr. Xuan Thuy stressed, is simed at sidetrack ing the struggle of the American soldiers, youths and other people now opposing the U.S. dirty war in Viet Nam.

In connection with U.S. Independence Day (July 4), My. Xuan Thuy said that it is the U.S. aggressors who have betraved the famous Declaration of Independence of the U.S. nearly 200 years ago, which says that all men are created equal and that among their inalienable rights, are the rights to live, to be ree and to enjoy happiness.

Rushing headlong into the coatly war in Viet Nam, the U.S. aggressors and war-maniacs have directly and indirectly mobilized 75 per cent of ground forces, 60 per cent of tactical air force, an important part of the strategic air force and 60 per cent of the U.S. Navy, and so on. They have squandered annually over 30 billion dollars, causing to the U.S. great difficulties in finance and currency the serious consequences of which are affecting the deliy life of the American people. Hundreds of thousands of American youths have been pushed into an unlamented and useless death in Viet Nam; the meless death in Viet Nam; the American people have to pay heavy taxes and bear high living costs, more and more families have lost their busbands, sons and brothers in the unjust war launched

In this war, the U.S. aggressors have sustained ever greater failures and losses. All their up-to-date war means have proved ineffective in face of the unflagging struggle of the entire Vietnamese people. On the other hand, the U.S. aggressive war has impaired more seriously than ever before the position and prestige of the U.S. in the international arena.

Mr. Xuan Thuy mentioned the growing movement of the American people of all strata against the U.S. aggressive war in Viet Nam. Dr. Ben-

jamin Spock, one of the leaders of jamin Spock, one of the teaders or that movement, was sentenced by the U.S. ruling circles for his opposi-tion to the U.S. war in Viet Nam. He has said: "The Vietnamese people have done no harm to the United Chates. What they have done in only States. What they have done is only to defend their country and to oppose the unjustifiable massacre by our troops and air force. The American people would do the same if any country on the other hemisphere wanted to impose a puppet govern-ment upon them."

"With regard to the American pilots who have flown raids on the D.R.V.N.", declared Mr. Xuan Thuy, "we consider them as authors of serious crimes caught red-handed But our government's policy toward

Mr. Xuan Thuy concluded: "The U.S. must stop its war of aggression against Viet Nam. This is the essential thing to save American youths from death and to extricate the U.S. from its predicament. This is also the essential thing to save the honour of the U.S., a country with a glorious history in its past Such a step fully conforms to the interests of the Vietnamese and the American peoples and to the interests of world peace. That is why, once again, I call on the U.S. government, on the U.S. representative present here to take a realistic view

interference. First and foremost, the U.S. must stop at once and unconditionally its bombing and all other acts of war against the D.R.V.N., so that other problems of concern to both parties can be discussed thereafter.

Speaking next, Mr Averell Harriman began by thanking the D.R.V.N. overnment for its recent decision to release three U.S. pilots. He then repeated the worn out allegations that the U.S. is "prepared to cease bombardment at the appropriate time and circumstance," that "North Viet Nam commits aggression against South Viet Nam," that "North Viet Nam distorts and violates the Geneva Accords of 1954," that the D.R.V.N. Government's represen-tative comes to Paris for "attempts at propaganda" and so on and so forth: He held on to the so-called Manila statement, pleading for the U.S. attempt to pursue the aggressive war against Viet Nam, carry out its design to turn South Viet Nam into an aggressive military base and a new-type colony of the U.S. and to continue its criminal bombing of the D.R.V.N.

All these abound allowations of the U.S. government's representative were sternly refuted by Mr. Xuan Thuy who declared: "It would take long to reach a peaceful solution of the Viet Nam question if the U.S. kept ringing the changes."

VIET NAM COURIER

THE NORTH-GREAT REAR BASE OF THE SOUTH

SINCE the U.S. escalation started three years ago, many American friends have visited Hanoi, defying a State Department's edict a State Department's enict forbidding travels to North Viet Nam. I say American friends because there are other, uninvited American visitors—the U.S.A.F. pilots visitors—the U.S.A.F. pilots who came and rained death and mournings over our

"Hanoi itself, though fully prepared for battle, did not appear agitated or mobilized so much as it seemed to so much as it seemed to be enjoying the fruits of peace. Only an occasional soldier was visible. infrequently a truck full of armed men or supplies would rumble down the pavement.

"The Little Lake in the

IMNOI As Seen by Americans young Victamese if they knew the way you are living here. In a visit to the Museum of the Army, Russell Studier presented his draft card. He wanted to let, it

people and finally lost their lives or are enjoying their "R and R" in our Hilton

Among the first American friends who came to Hanoi in December 1965 were Herbert Aptheker, Staughton Lynd and Thomas Hayden. Back home, Staughton Lynd, Professor of History at Yale. and Thomas Hayden, founder of S.D.S., wrote The Other Side, a book by the first American private individuals to have seen North

Here is how Hanoi is seen in their book

 Up to mid June 1968, in the Nung ethnical minority region, Quang Ninh province, more than 200 workers groups fulfilled the first six-month plan from 15 to 50 days ahead

 In 11 coastal villages of Hau Loc district, Thank Hos province, where the improve-ment of sandy soil is under-way, the sweet potato crop the sweet potato crop tons per hectare compared with last year.

• In 1967, salt production exceeded the 1966 figure by 9 per cent. Thanks to an increased specialization of peressed specialization of improved implements, the rooton hectare target has been surpassed in a great number of salt-producing co-opera-tives. Tan Thinh co-op in Nghe An province produced toz tous of salt per hectare up the average.

 Up to now Dai Tu district, Bac Thai province (Bac Bo mountain regions), 140 classes of complementary and technical courses have been ren for youths of various national minorities. So per cent of youths in the district attend these courses.

 66.3 per cent of villages in Quang Ninh province (min-ing region along Bac Bo seacoast) have got each their own infirmary - maternity

center of Hanoi is ringed by cement-and-dirt bomb shelters where in the past flower gardens have bloomed. Most of the city's children are evacuated to safer provinces where they can con school. But those rems continue can be seen at play in the sand atop the shelters, run-ning and shouting inside of them. Young couples spend evenings together on the park benches between the park benches between the shelters, strolling along the rim of the lake, or riding bicycles together down the bordering lanes. Still others drink coffee or beer on the porch of an outdoor restauwhich under French rule was

"The theaters show nuabout the war and its thereas, and people come in throngs to the shows such register and the such register and the such register and the such register and the radios there as well, we constantly heard poetry virtually the dominant sound, accompanied by the clicking virtually the chains, women's wooden beels, and the soft has constantly heard the such results of the such register and the such register and the such received holds or the about the war and its by occasional honks or rattis of a two-car trolley.

" It could be said that such patterns are escapist. As we felt the atmosphere of Hanoi, we recalled the studies of irrational normality ef Europeans being bombed for the first time in World War II. But it seemed to us that the Victnamese do not avoid the fact of American attack: too many of them wear rifles as they farm. Rather, they are so conditioned to war since 1940, against Japanese, French, and Americans—that it no longer takes priority over civilian life. There is no over civinan tre. Inter in un national emergency which can fully erase the fact that shopping must be done, the fields tended, and young couples married."

BY the end of 1966, I met Russell Stetler, former chairman of the May 2nd Movement, an auti-war organization of American students, during his visit to Hanoi. He was too busy with his contribution to Lord Bertrand Russell's Tribunal of War Crime. He missed the opportunity to see the whole country. He liked to stroll on the Road of the Youth to watch the sunset on the West

Lake and young lovers walking hand in hand. He "wished to provide informa-tion that will enable the American public to debate the imus of Viet Nam intelligently," He would like to make the youth know much better about U.S. crimes against the Victnamese. He did report to them that life old report to them that life was going on in Hanol: "Young Americans will not go to Viet Nam sighting young Vietnamete if they knew the way you are living here." In a visit to the Museum of the Army, Russell Stetler presented his draft there, as he would never enlist to fight his Vietnamese

DR Horace Champney, a retired professor from Yellow Spring (Ohio), and Dr Earle Reynolds, a genetist, are two among many American friends who wish Hanoi to "share" with us the danger of U.S. air raids. Once, as Earle Reynolds was Once, as Earle Neynoids was giving a talk on his favorite subject — peace, U.S. jets roared past over the city at roof-top height. He ran out of the shelter to look and when he came back he shrug-gled: "It's ours." Dr Horace Champney said: "If I was given a rifle I should fire at

Are they communists? No.

they are pacifist Quakers who sailed on the ketch Phoeniz with medical supplies contri-buted by American and Canadian citizens for the embattled people of Viet Nam. I accompanied them in their wanderings about the their wanderings about the populated quarters of the city. They asked me to introduce them to the men in the street as "American friends." Eventually a soldier came up and talked to them, a newly married couple who were takrose, a mother put her baby's tiny hand in their hands. Our American friends highly appreciated such a fine ges-ture of the common people in a city at war with the United States. Indeed the Hanoi people have responded to bombs with bullets and to the call of hearts with their

ARLY in February 1968, Fr. Daniel Berrigan, S.J. and Prof. Howard Zinn came to Hanoi to be banded over three American captured pilots released by Vietnamese military author-ities during the Lucar New Year. Here is what Fr. Berrigan saw in our city:

"...And so we went across the river and into the suburbs There I could see very clearly upder a full moon large areas of devastation, most of which seemed to be residential.

"Hanoi is half evacuated. There are no children and no old people. It is not a black-out city, but it is operating at about half its electrical

"Practically no schooling is going on in the city.

AFRICAN COUNTRIES RESOLUTELY SUPPORT OUR STRUGGLE ACAINST ILS. ACCRESSION

VICE - MINISTER Foreign Affairs Hoang Van Loi, envoy of the D B V N Government has returned to Hanoi after a visit to the Algerian Dentacratic and People's Republic the Republic of Mali the Republic of Guinea, the United Arab Republic, the Syrian Arab Republic, and the United Republic of Tanzania.

During his tour Hoang Van Loi was accorded a warm welcome by the gov and peoples of the host countries and a cordial reception by their Presidents, Premiers and other leaders

The D.R.V.N. Government envoy posted them up about patriotic fight, the positions of the D.R.V.N. Government and the South Viet Nam N.F.L. on the settlement of the Vist Nam problem. The Presidents and other leaders of these friendly countries severely condemned the U.S. imperialists' aggression and crimes against the Vietnamese people in both zones, their obduracy and perfidy at the current conversations in Paris. They highly appreciated the great contributions of the Vietnamese people to the cause of national liberation of

the Asian, African and Latin American peoples and the defence of world peace. They warmly welcomed the victo ries seconded by the South Vietnamese people since early this year and expressed the conviction that the Vietnamese people would win and the U.S. imperialists would be defeated.

Many Heads of State and other leaders of these friendly countries declared their unconditional support for the Vietnamese people's struggle full support of the four points of the D.R.V.N. Governmen the South Viet Nam N.F.L. as well as the correct stand and serious attitude of the the Paris talks. They demand ed that the U.S. stop uncon ditionally the bombing and all other acts of war against the D.R.V.N. They expressed their profound admiration for President Ho Chi Minh and conveyed to him their wishes of good health and longevity

Hoang Van Loi extended to the Governments and peo ples of the countries visited the sincere thanks of the D.R.V.N. Government and the Viet Nam people for their

" Practically all medical care from the delivery of children to the care of war victims

is now carried on in hunkers. "The churches are open. Hanoi, of course, is not a great Catholic center. But the Cathedral is open. Both morning and evening Mass is held there. The priests seem to disperse during the where most of the people are, and then they return for Sunday Mass.

"The atmosphere of the city - from the Premier, whom we interviewed, down to the people who served our hotel rooms - is one of confidence and cheerfulness. From the look on the face of thousands, you get the impression of people who are going to make it, and are making it." (in America, March 9, 1968).

ARY McCarthy, the distinguished American novelist who last year published a book on South Vist Nam, recently visited our North Viet Nam. She is now one of the few Western writers to have seen the war from both sides. Here are some excerpts from her report published in Sunday

Times - Weekly Review -May 26, 1068:

"Growth staristics, offered everywhere, on bicycle - own ership, irrigation, rice barvests, maternity clinics, literacy are the answer to the 'war of destruction' which because on February 2, 1965, a bombed oak putting out new leaves is a 'reply' to the Air Force and the Seventh Fleet. All communist countries are bent on furnishing growth statistics (it is their form of advertiging), but with Hanoi this is something special, carrying a

secondary meaning-defiance "On a big billboard in the city centre, the number of U.S. planes shot down is revised forward daily in red paint - 2818, they claimed when I left, and the number keeps growing. In villages the score is kept on a blackboard

"Everything they build is dated down to the family wells in a bamlet - a mean of visibly recording progress, like pencilling the heights of children, with the dates op-posite, on a door. And each date has a clear significance in the story of resistance : 1965 or 1966, stamped on a well, proclaims that it was built in spite of the air

S.P.

3.000 U.S. AIRCRAFT DOWNED IN NORTH VIET NAM



Conventional A.A. Defence (a Haiphong unit)

Those Who Helped Toward the 3,000-Mark

Dannle's Name (artillary 'of an elita unit)







People's Militia fa unit of militia women in Ha Tinh province)

Surface-to-air missiles

47 MODELS OF U.S. AIRCRAFT DOWNED

• 1 model of strategic bember : B. 52 Stratefortress. • 1 model of tactical bom-ber : B. 57 Canberra.

e 17 models of fighter-bombers and 6 of fighters well-known for their high performances: F. 4 Phantom, F. 105 Thunderchief, A.6 In truder, A.4 Skyhawh, F.8 Crusader, and the famous "variable geometry" F. 111-A

a 13 models of reconnais sence planes including RB.66
Destroyer, equipped with expensive electronic instruments, and 2 robot spy planes

e 4 models of survey and patrol planes of U.S. Navv including the electronic four-engine EC, 121 Warning Star.

· 2 models of transports. a 3 models of belicopters including the QH.50A pilotless jet apy helicopter.



A WAR THAT **SWALLOWS UP DOLLARS**

U.S. aggression against Viet Nam is known as the most expensive war over fought by the U.S. The air war brazenty mand avaiust the D.R.V.N. since August 5, 1964 accounts for an important part of the bill footed by the Pentagon. Hereunder are some figures supplied by the U.S. organs concerned and the American

P to June 25, 1968, after against North Viet Nam. the U.S. air force lost 3,000 planes, most of them up-todate jets, or an average loss of 2 aircraft per day for four years running. Topping by far the list of these 3,000 planes downed are F.105 Thunderchiels and Phantoms which respectively cost 1.5 million and 2 million dollars each. The night-bomber, A.6 Intruder, grounded by the do-

tern press says, a pilot "is worth his weight in gold" and to be rated as a jet pilot by infantry fire) costs 3 mil-lion spiece and an RB.66 Destroyer' electronic recon-naissance plane, 6 million, The he must fly at least 600 hours most expensive are the Sira-tofortress B 52, a big 8-turbo-(one hour consumes 1,000 litres of fuel). The training prop strategic bomber of the U.S.A.F. which costs 9.5 milof a pilot capable of flying all-weather missions requires lion dollars (6 of which have been downed in the D.R.V.N.), eight years and costs 773,000 dollars on the average. and the F.111-A variable geometry swing-wing fighterbomber, the most up-to-date

can in the D.R.V.N. (mostly

American plane which costs 7 million dollars (3 of which

have been shot down by

North Viet Nam).

THE price of each ton of bomb is 2,000 dollars, that of a 25-rocket container 1,050 dollars and a flare 75 dollars.

flying missions. As the wee

Because of the shortage of bombs, the U.S. imperialists had to repurchase from West Germany at 21 dollars each of the lot they had sold HE U.S. has lost in North Viet Nam thousands of airmen captured, killed, at 1.72 dollars each, or 12 times dearer.

As by December too U.S. planes had used in Viet Nam 650,000 tons of bombs, this represents a handsome sum of 1.3 billion dollars.

ROGER HILSMAN, former Assistant Secretary of State in charge of Far-Eastern Affairs, revealed on March 26, 1068 that the bombing of North Viet Nam had swallowed up 6 billion dollars, including 4.5 billion worth of planes lost. That is, of course, a very conservative estimate.

So many billion dollars supplied by American taxpayers have gone down the ment of Johnson and Company.

3,000 U.S. AIRCRAFT DOWNED IN NORTH VIET NAM

SCORE-BOARD OF NORTH VIET NAM ANTI-AIRCRAFT DEFENCE VERSUS U.S. AIR FORCE

U.S. Annual less of aircraft since the first air raids on the D.R.V.N. :

12 in 1964 (since August 5) 834 in 1965 773 in 1966

Total: 3018 (up to Tune 20.1068)

April 1065: 163 planes plane. downed. 1967: 160

May 1967: 160
October 1967: 131
November 1967: 131
July 1966: 123
August 1967: 116
September 1967: 116
September 1967: 110
U.S. heaviest and memorable daily loanes:
August 1968: 1969
U.S. heaviest and memorable daily loanes:
August 1, 1964: 1967: 1977: 1988
August 1, 1964: 1977: 1988

able daily losses:
August 5, 1964; surprise attacks on 4 localities in the
D. R. V. N., beginning of
escalation: 8 planes downed. Fabruary 7, 1965: beginning

of gregular raids: 4 planes downed over Dong Hoi (latitude 17°20° N.) April 3 and 4, 1955: 57 planes downed including 3 over two big bridges noar the 20th parallel reached by U.S. escalation toward the end of May. June 29, 1965: First raids on urban areas of Hanoi and Harbon 27° clanes downed

Haiphong: 7 planes downed.

December 13 and 14, 1966:
12 planes downed by Hanoi

A.A. Defence. December 20, 1967: 2 B.52 strategic bombors downed over Vinh Linh (17th parallel). March 28, 1968: The first F.111-A swing - wing plane

downed in Ha Tinh province three days after the commis-sioning of the first esquadron of this type of planes. Two days later, a second one was downed west of Hanoi. Achievements of various

- Conventional A.A. De-— Conventional A.A. De-fence has had its lion's share in the downing of the 3,000 planes. Its most remarkable months and battles were:

153 planes downed in April

1965. 80 planes downed in September 1965.

1966. 82 planes downed in August 1966. 87 planes downed in May

1967. 12 planes downed over 12 planes downed ower Haiphong on April 25, 1967.

16 planes downed over Hanoi on May 19, 1967.

5 planes downed within a minute on October 17, 1967 over Bac Giang.

4 planes downed over Con Co Leinad (17th parallel) on May 31, 1965.

— Burtagor-lo-air missile

— Surface-to-air missile units have made great progress. The number of American planes grounded by this nascent arm of the People's Armed Forces in 1959 doubled that of 1956 which reached the hundreds. The most memorable months and days

39 planes downed in May 1967. 35 planes downed in Octo-

er 1967. 27 planes downed in July

1966. 27 planes downed in No-

The People's Air Force

and days were:
May 1967: 83 U.S. planes

wned. September 1967: 12 U.S.

our air force won its first victory on April 3, 1965 by downing 3 F.3s near the 20th parallel. It bagged 5 planes on each of the days:

- The People's Navy has

8 planes downed on No-

with the days: October 5, 1965, July 19, 1966 and October 27,

— The People's Air Force has to its credit several hundred enemy planes down-ed, often in unequal dog fights. In 1967, it grounded a number of planes double that of 1966 and 8 times that of 1965. Its most glorious months

April 1967: 16 U.S. planes

September 1967: 12 U.S. planes downed.

November 1967: 11 U.S. planes downed.

December 1967: 11 U.S. planes downed.

Our air force won its first

April 30 and May 5, 1967, 4 planes (including that of U.S.A.F. Colonel Norman Gaddis) on May 12, 1967 and 4 planes on each of six other days.

co-ordinated its action with ground AA batteries and has ground AA Datteries and has outstandingly contributed to victory, chiefly in the defence of the Immous Ham Rong bridge over which 47 Amer-ican planes were downed on

255 HAIPHONG 210 23 0

April 3 and 4, 1965. In Hai-phong, our naval units brought down 4 planes on July 7, 1966 atone. over fifty 8 of these up-to-

- The worker and peasant militie have up to May 31, 1968, downed with infantry 1989, downed with infanty weapons, 244 merican planes (including 31 in night combats) made up of 18 models such as A.5 infruder, F.4. Phantom, F.105 Thundrekief, unmanned planes and helicopters.

Young country women have downed 17 and old men

the part played by
various provinces and regless in the downing of
American planes is shown in the map above (up to June 28, 1968). The record is held 28, 1908). He record is held by Quang Biah province with 472 planes downed, followed by Nghe An province (322), Thanh Hoa province (222), Hanoi (288) and Haiphong (210). Four provinces have downed between 118 and 190

HANGE

planes and 9 others between 80 and 100.

SOME U.S. PILOTS

Captured Before and After March 31, 1968

1. - John Peter Flynn, born 1922, Ohio, U.S.A.F. Colonel, service number 15760A, captured October 27, 1967 in Hanoi.

2 - John Sidney Mac Cain, born 1936, Panama, U.S. Navy Lieutenant-Commander, Palama, service number 622787, cabitured October 26, 1967 in Hanoi, 3 — Edwin Frank Miller, korn 1940. New York State, Lieutenani Junior, U.S. Newy, service mumber 705310, pillet of a carrier Benhomme Richard-based R.F.S., shot down by Nghe An anti-aireral [tors: May 22, 1956].

4 - Roger Daan Ingvalson; born 1928, Minnesota, Major of U.S.A.F., FR 30713, piloting a Korat (Thailand)-based F. 195D, that down by anti-niereaft artillery over Queng Bink May 28, 1968.

5.—Richard George Tangeman, born 1940, New York State, Lieutenant, U.S. Newy, service number 669570, filed of a carrier Enterprise-based RASC, thoi down by He Tink anti-

unrung pres susy 5, 1906.
6 — Wentley Lawis Rumble, born 1943. California, First Lieutenant, U.S.A.F., service number F.V., 313365, pilot of a Da Nang-based F4D, shot down by Quang Binh anti-aircraft force April 25, 1965.

7 - Praphan Sirion, born 1934, Udorn, warrant-officer, U.S.A.F., pilot of a Don Muone (Thailand)-based C.47, shot down by Nghe An anti-aircraft force March 26, 1966.





VIET NAM COURIER

N.F.L. and P.L.A.F. Acclaim North Viet Nam Armed Forces and People's Victory | Second Content of the Content

THE Central Committee of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation and the Command of the South Viet Nam People's Liberation Armed Forces have warmly halled the downing by the North Vietnamese armed forces and people of the 3,000th U.S. aircraft over the airspace of North Viet Nam.

In a message addressed to the Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam and the High Command of the Viet Nam People's Army, they said :

Winder the clearsighted leadership of the Viet Nam

Workers' Party, the D.R.V.N. Government and President Ho Chi Minh, the North Viet Nam armed forces and namese nation's ardent patriotism, her utmost hatred for the enemy, her matchless revolutionary heroism, and her unequalled talent and wisdom, thus bringing added glory to the tradition of valiancy and dauntlessness, of our Fatherland Vigt.

The message recalted that for nearly 4 years now the U.S. imperialists had been frantically waging war of

June 28 to General Vo Nguyen Giap, D.R.V.N. Vice-Premier and Minister of National Defence, General

Kim (hang Bong, Vice Pre-mier and Minister of National Defence of the Demecratic Peeple's Republic of Kores,

and the Vistnamese beoble

cessfully resisting the savage hombings and all other acts of war against the D.R.V.N.

and showing their inexhaust-ible strength in the sacred struggle against U.S. aggres-

sion, for national salvation to defend North Viet Num, liberate South Viet Nam,

and achieve the remultication

Rusov, Minister of National

tiant and greater successes in their struggle against the U.S. imperialists' aggression,"

In his June 28 message to General Vo Nguyen Giap, Minister of National Defence

have been inflicting du ishment on the American imperialists' air bioates, suc-

aggressive war conducted under any form and with any kind of modern means. destruction against North Viet Nam in an attempt to seek a way out from their stalemate in South Viet

Nam.

By shooting down 3,000
American sircraft, it added,
the North Vietnamese armed
forces and people have
exploded the "U.S. air
superiority" myth, and
aggravated the current political, military and economic
crisis of the Johnson clique.

The message said that with its new feat North Viet Nam set a shining example of determination to resist U.S. aggression, and further illustrated the historical

The message stressed that the South Vietnamese armed forces and people were resolved to stand side by with the armed forces and people of North Viet this sacred resist ance, by deshing forward in the flush of victory, in the flush of victory, rising up simultaneously to rising up simultaneously to overthrow the puppet ad-ministration, to break the aggressive will of the U.S. imperialists, and to wrest back total power for the

Release of Three U.S.Pilots

DROCEEDING from the humanitarian and lenient policy of the Government of the Democratic Re public of Viet Nam, the General Political Department of the Viet Nam People's Army has decided to release three U.S. pilots captured in North Vist Nam Vist Nam News Agency reported on

and torn; and finally, my right arm was wrenched making it useless. Thus, I could not perform even the simplest of tasks such as

eating or relieving mysels without assistance.

The badly needed medical

treatment started immediate-ly. I was given blood tests, my

heart was checked and I was

examined thoroughly by as many as 6 different doctors to include the Chief of Surge-

North Viet Nam's **Great Exploit Hailed** All Over the World

THE news that North Viet Nam had downed 3,000 planes of the U.S. aggressors rejoices not only the Vietnamese people in both zones of Viet Nam but

• In a message sent on June 28 last to the Viet Nam-U.S.S.R. Friendship Associa-tion, General P.F. Batov, Vice President of the USSR Viet Nam Friendship Asso ciation, said: "This area exploit as well as other glorious exploits achieved by the armed forces and people of South Viet Nam in the general zince early spring year greatly please the Soviet people ... Should the U.S. people... Should the imperialists not draw lesson of their deleat and 4 nooth and 5 oooth and other planes would be shattered pieces in North Viet Name

• The message of the Min-People's Republic of China stressed, "Under the guidance of their great leader, President Ho Chi Minh the heroic Vietnamese people, imbued with the determined to fight and to win' spirit, united as one man from North to South and habouring the same hatred for the case have won big victories in their U.S. aggression, for national salvation ... You their resistance to the criminal have skilfully developed aggression of the U.S. invincible strength of people's Rusov, Minister of National Defence of the Czecheslovak Socialist Republic, wrote in his message, "On this occa-sion, we sincerely wish the armed forces of the heroic Vietnamese people more bril-

"... The Chinese people and Liberation steeled by the great proletarian cultural revolution, resolped to follow Chairman Mao's leachings and to hold more aloft the international proletarian banner, will help with might and main and an unshahable will the anti-U.S. struggle

of the D.R.V.N., P. Pzhunov, Minister of National Defence of the People's Republic of American air pirates, this will be their last High or North Viet Nam. This is not only a punishnerst metal out a passise proof of the fight-ing capacity of A.A. deplating capacity of A.A. deplating of the National Poeple's samed people's samed people's samed people's samed muste of the D.R.V.N. brother Victnamese people till

• The message of General J. Lhagvasuren, Defence Min-ister of the People's Repub-lic of Mongolie, said: "The ne of Mongolie, said: "The officers and soldiers of the People's Army and all the people of Mongolia whole-heartedly support the heroic and righteous struggle of the Victorians." ina righteous struggto of the setnamese people against the S. aggressors."

e In its message to the C.C. of the Viet Nam Fa-therland Front, the Hungarian Patriotic People's Frent wrote, "Viet Nam is today stronger than ever. She has been continually receiving from the socialist countries more and more important military and political aids to support her in her national war.

e Khamtay Siphadon, repree In Cube, Foreign Min-ster Raul Roa declared ation People's Army Righ Command, wrote in his command, wrote in his message, "The fact that the armed forces and people of North Viet Nam downed the 3,000th U.S. plane just after that the downing of the 3.000th U.S. plane indicated not only the heavy losses suffered by the U.S. aggres-sors, but also their rapid gliding towards final defeat in Viet Nazo. the American rulers declared 'limited bombing' of North Vies Nam, constituted a stag-gering blow deals at their mulish scheme and manoeue The message of General Heinz Hofman, Minister of National Defence of the German Democratic ves; this feat throw a strong light on the U.S. air force's ignominious failure in its Bepublic, rend, We wish the Vietnamese people who have been fighting so confrontation with the house uno nate been fighting so valiantly greater successes in

· At its recent extraordi nary session to welcome the namese people, the Afro-Asian-Latin American Sol-idarity Organisation pasidarity Organisation pas-sed a message to Presi-dent Ho Chi Minh. The message read, "This fresh exploit constituted a victory of special significance in the heroic struggle of the Victnamesa people and all peoples of Asia, Africa and Latin America. ica. It is the best robly to the wiched aggression and cymical schemes of the U.S. imperialists."

Many U.S. air pirates shot down during their criminal raids on North Viet Nam, have expressed their graticude for the humans treatment given

The following impressions come from John Peter Flynn, Colonel of the U.S. Air Force, Colone of the Co. All Policy F.R. 15760A, born 1922 in Ohio, pilot of a Korat (Thai-land) - based F.105D and thoi

Captured U.S. Pilot Thanks Vietnamese People for Humane Treatment

ON the 27th of October, I was shot down by a 85 mm gun about 10 miles west of Hanoi, I was in very difficult circumstances, since I was severely injured during the bail out.

My captors were, under-My captors were, under-standably, not too happy with me. After all, "the U.S. bombing was illegal," we had never declared war on North Viet Nam. They also suffered the very justifiable rugs of a very small nation being attacked by a much larger one, with no basis in international law for mich an attack. Most important, they had been bombed incessantly had been bombed (accessantly for over 3 years For over 3 years they had watched their people maimed or killed by U.S. bombs; had seen homes damaged or destroyed; witnessed schools and hospitals levelled; and even some of their churches razed.

circumstances my captors had every justification for refusing me medical assistance. Indeed, they could have killed me. They did neither of these things. They took me to the hospital instead. The hospital, a very fine one, with modern facilities, was located in Hanoi. My injuries were extensive: mi right thigh bone was fractured with both ends of the bone protruding from the flesh; the left knee was useless

ry. There was no doubt in my mind that despite the fact that I was the enemy and had done their nation grievous harm I was receiving only the best of medical care, equal to any that would be received in the U.S. The nurses who attended to me were cheerful and competent, ate and went to great lengths suffer unnecessary pain. Even the guard helped me in a manner that was most humane and well beyond that required by his duties. He actually fed me by his own hand when I was having difficulty in eating. I was truly amazed that these people supposedly enemies, would treat a captive with such

They performed a very difficult operation on my right leg, using the most modern of techniques. They actually inserted a metal pin in my thigh bone so that the leg would be sufficiently supported during the healing process. Post-operative X. Ray revealed that the operation was a complete success. The surgeon had made a perfectly straight match of the two broken

consideration.

While the right leg was healing in its cast, they turned their attention to my left leg. This was a most

(Continued base 7)

DEEDS, Mr JOHNSON

(Continued from page 1)

to65-to66, on which the U.S. Comand primed high hopes. In January, Washington produced its 14-point program, This time insertion was believe informed. The White Informed. The White Informed. The White Informed. The White Informed informed in the Informed Information of the Infor

"capitulation in South Vist Nam." In other words,

the men brought to office by the Americans - Nguyen Cao Ky and his confederates -

wara to remain masters of South Viet Nam, the Viet-

South Viet Nam, the Viet-namese people's opinion notwithstanding. Besides, the Americans made no bones of their will by supporting Nguyên Cao Ky in his savage

repression of the Buddhists in 1966.

The first dry-season counter

Nam at an accelerated tempo, and the U.S. expeditionary

forces soon numbered 400,000 men. Directly or indirectly, Washington continued its

"peace" manoeuvres, atways on the equivocal basis of peace at

the equivocal basis of peace at any price, without taking the least account of Viet Nam's in-

dep ndence, and always relying on threats of destruction.

The year 1967 brought bitter

disillusions to the men in

M R JOHNSON is re-putedly very clever. At Baltimora, he lived up to his reputation. The bombings of the D.R.V.N., the intensiof the D.R.V.N., the intensi-ication of the mar in South Viet Nam in 1965 had stirred great emotion in the United States and the world. Some-thing had to be done to world-people's anguish. Mr fohmson had a trimpocard: American and international opinion was still till-informed of Viet Nam's roblems, and neither Amervat avident. For many people the problem ap-peared simple: peace being seriously threatened in Viet Nam, it should first of all be safeguarded. The U.S. govern-ment having proclaimed its ment naving processing the occasion should be seized to put an end to the war. Many thought that the Vietnamess people's struggle for their independence was of course a legitimate one, but their adversary had such powerful means at his disposal that persistence in lefending it would inevitably cad to the destruction of Viet am. In those conditions, a destructive war through gotiations without any pra-conditions" and then find other ways to attain the tar-

ienty and unity? For the Vietnamess people the approach to the problem towns and villages savagely bombed, and a continuous bombed, and a continuous landing of American G.l.s.; for them the alternative was not "mar or peace" but "inde-pendence or servitude." What were those proposals for " megotiations without any pre-conditions" accompanied by violent bombings if not a ca-mouflaged call to pure and simple surrender?

ests of independence, sover-

To defend one's independence, one's right to live, was the vital tash. Thus the important thing for the important thing for the Vietnamese people was not to megaliate amidst bomb explosions or to engage in y "negotiations without bre-conditions" but to deline clearly their objectives and to assert vigorously their fundamental national rights. it was Washington's aim to lead world and American opinion, through shilful unnocurring, to forget about American aggression and put the aggressor and his victim on the same footing. It was could be obtained through threats of destruction and threats of destruction and capitalizing on the desire for pence. Other people than the Vietnamese atto smell a rat. The New York Times of March 7, 1965 wrote: the U.S. is trying to win in North Viet Nam the war that was gradually being lost in the South."

Since the Ballimore speech, the same scenario has been repeatedly used: corry new was efforby Washington was coupled with a new "peace offensive." On July 28, 1965, Johnson resterated his negotiation sending of 50,000 more G.I.s. In December, Haiphong, land began his great dry1950 the United States has been multiplying acts of ag-grassion against the Visinam-ces people: the latter could not be expected to believe the fine words coming from the White House.

U.S. escalation continued. In February 1967, American artillery began pounding D.R.V.N. territory over the demilitarized zone at the 17th parallel. But the military situation grow from bad to worse for the Americans and pressure from world public opinion became stronger Toyas in which he cavefull maintained an equivocal stand about the ransom the D.R.V.N. would have to pay if the bombing was to end. The D.R.V.N. government, through declarations by Mr. Nguyen Duy Trinh on December 29, 1967 then February 8, 1968, dispelled all ambiguity. The asspected att amosguity. The general offensive, military and political, launched by the people's forces of South Viet Nam in February and March supplied glaving evidence of coffensive having come to a flop, Hanoi was bombed in the summer of 1966, dykes in North Viet Nam pounded, Soviet ships hit in the port of Haiphong. Reinforcements were poured into South Viet American military impotence, In March, Senator MacCarthy obtained 42% of the votes in the New Hampshire presidential primaries. Senator Robert Kennedy announced that he would seek nomination as presidential candidate. General

Reset with difficulties on

assitusions to the men in Washington on the military plane. The failure of the large-scale operations of the second dry season, Operation (Continued from page 6) Junction City in particular, caused Johnson to jestison. A demand had become ever more imperative in world opinion: an end to the bombing of North Vist Nam, an indispensable condition for the opening of negotiations. In bones. They also had choice of no operation opening of magications 2nd a lister addressed to President Ho Chi Minh, Johnson clung to the formula of "reciprocty," The letter reached Hanoi on the 10th of February, but on the x3th, without waiting for an answer, Johnson ordered resumption of the bombing.

In his reply, President Ho In his rapty, Prasident the Chi Minh made innegationally clear the D.R.V.N.'s position: the first step towards peace must be a permanent and muconditional and to the bombing and all other ac-war against the D.R.V.N. January 28, Mr. Nguyen Duy Trinh, the Foreign Minister of the D.R.V.N., had issued a statement in the same vein. Johnson was out before his Ot all American acts of ag

gression against Vist Nam, the bombings of the D.R.V.N. are the most unjustified and unjustifiable act, the most cynical and brazen violation international law, th of international tan, the most arrogant challenge to the socialist countries and the peoples of the Third World. The D.R.V.N. cannot negotiate under the threats of bombs, or in the course of a mere pause which could be called off at

any moment.
An unconditional end to the bombing is for the American government an order which could easily be carried which could easily be carried out and the most tangible proof of its will to negotiate. Acts of peace are required, not empty discourses. Eur since Johnson announced a " limited ment to appoint represen-tatives to discuss a total end to the bombing.

What followed everyons knows: Johnson going back almost immediately on his word about the choice of a meeting place; intensification of the bombing on past the territory of the D.R.V.N more money voted in Was ington for the war; sending of more troops to South Viet Nam; obstinate refusal by the White House to order an end to the bombing of the

ONCE again, Mr John-son has given proof of his cleveruss. A partial end to the bombing made it possible for him to ease the pressure of world and American public opinion obtain more money and more troops for the may, while American aircraft could con-centrate their strikes on a limited area to make them limited area to make them more efficient and murderous. But this manoeuvire was also confession of failure, explicitly recognised by the Wall Street Journal as early as the 28th of February.

Clever speeches are not enough, Mr Johnson, People everywhere in the world are expecting deeds from you, and one particular dead to begin with: an unconditional end to the bombing and all other acts

of may against the DRVN. Vou said before Consess on

"I want to be the President
who helped to end hatred
among the people of all races
and all regions and all parties.
I want to be the President
who helped to and war among the brothers of this earth."

You have a unique, trreplace able occasion for translating I say to you; no hombing will bend the will of our people; on this side there is no more hope for you.

You and your spokesmen in Paris profess your great concern about the fate of American soldiers in South Viet Nam. You won't save them by going on bombing the Narth. Read this letter which Kenneth W. Bagby, an American G.I., sent to his folks in Winchester, Virginia, following the first engagements in mber 1965:

"The many men that died, will never lorget. The odor blood and decayed bodies. never ... If I am not killed will come out insane... The friends I lost, the many bodies I carried back to the helicopters to be lifted out, I will never forget."

The young Americans you sent to Viet Nam are also waiting for acts of beace from

NGUYEN KHAC VIEN

CAPTURED U.S. PILOT ...

volved repairing muscle and tendon rather than setting all. The tendons and muscles would eventually heal to a degree, permitting me to walk, but I would never have full normal use of the leg and thus would be a cripple for the rest of my

strated their humanity and compassion. Despite the fact that the hospital was crowdnd and were busy with casualties from U.S. actions they elected to operate, using tendons from other parts of my leg to belster the torn knee. This most difficult operation was performed with complete success. It will restore my legs to normal conditions, permitting me to perform all activities, a most precious gift to give one's enemy. They had every reason to do a bare minimum. yet I am certain that their own people would not have received better attention and treatment

There were other things that also left a deep impression. When I first entered tite. As a result, my strength was failing fast. No effort was spared to get me to eat I was asked what kind of food I liked the best. The food was prepared and served in a most appetizing manner. When this did not work, they

procured fruits in order to start me eating. Much food was wasted that they could ill afford to waste. I certain that I was fed much etter than their own popu-

Another matter was medicine. There was an overall shortage of medicines chiefly as a result of U.S. bombing Despite the fact that I was pilot who had participated raids against them. I received massive doses of Penicillin and any other drug needed to speed my recovery. I am certain that medicines are in short supply that is carefully rationed, yet it was given unstintingly to me.

There were many other smaller, but equally revealing kindnesses. For example, kindnesses. For example, injured limbs when the handl-ing could have been rough and most painful. A smile of encouragement given instead of a frown. After a particu larly painful session as a result of a necessary move a without a word. The look which accompanied this most thoughtrul gift spoke for itself. It was these many large, and smaller, kindnesses that convinced me of the true humaneness and genuine compassion of the Vietnamese

Most of this must not have come easy for them. I am certain that most of them had lost friends or relatives, had homes damaged or destroyed or children evacuated to the countryside. All of them were suffering daily inconve-niences as a result of our attacks. I was told that the doctor who had performed the operation on me though and hard before be personal feelings, but somehow

managed to let his humanity

period and we saffered through many air raids and alerts. interrupted the busy work schedule at the hospital. I would lie in my bed and list to the hospital personnel's calm and cheerful voices as they went to the shelter. It apparent that no amount pressure could change their determination to see job through. After each raid there was no change in their attitude toward me, no matter how severe the damage. soon found myself praying for the safety of the cities' inhabitants and for the bombinen to stop.

I am desply grateful for the humane and competent treatment that I have received from the North Vietnamene people and for this opportunity express my appreciation. I now wish even more fervently that the bombings would stop, negotiations commence so the war could come to an end, permitting the with the job of building their nation. From what I have observed about this humanity, compassion, dedication and sense of purpose, it should be a fine nation, a nation in which children can be raised in peace."

TO THE READER

We are awars that there is much room for improve-ment in the wording of our paper. We apologize for this shortcoming and highly appreciate all your suggestions as they will help us to serve you more

Military Operations

KHE SANH AND NOBTH-ERN PART OF QUANG TRI PROVINCE

THE P.L.A.F. have been hammering at U.S. Marines now evacuating Elesant combat base. They have been combining their artillery and infantry in attacks against enemy positions and ambushes against his convoy on the road of retreat.

The same day, a convoy of go vehicles was intercepted with heavy adverse losses on the section of Highway No op between Res Quan and Ca Lu and a cannon parking ground at Lang Khoai was overrun: the enemy lest many men and a roy am cannon. Meanwhile, Hill 669 was assaulted by the P.L.A.F. who killed or wounded 130 G.I.s and downed 3 choppers. The battle was still raging on July 1

The initial list of Americas longer at Kho Sanh in the week ending July a mentioned 700 U.S. Marines killed or wounded, 13 aircraft downed or destroyed on the ground, 3 cannons and mortars put out of action and many depots and barracks set after. Up to now, the U.S. Command is still unable to withdraw its trough from the Khe Sanh

In the sector east of Highway No 9, the P.L.A.F. gave battle to the enemy at Cun Viet and north of Deng Ma on June 25, 27 and 28 and inflicted on him 160 casualties, burnt 2 cargo-boats and 2 depots (at Cun Viet) and damaged U.S., patrol boat No 2005 near the 17th parallel.

Gisi Phony Press Agency has given details of the bombardment of Dong Ha on June 20: 400 G.I.s killed or wounded, 12 depots, about one hundred vehicles, 3 crance, 6 aircraft including a C.130 transport, 8 ordnance pieces destroyed or damaged. The U.S. Marine Division 3 H.Q. was hit.

On June 17 and 18, a small artillery unit of the P.L.A.F. put out of action 150 G.L.s by repeatedly shelling the enemy at Con Tien and Bat Som.

SAIGON AND PERIPHERY

N June 29, the P.L.A.F. fired rockets on many targets such as police stations, G.I. garrisons in the northwest suburbs. It was the 32nd shelling of Saigon since May 5.

The same day, at Ba Diem, 16km north of the city, the P.L.A.F. closed in upon an American unit and inflicted on it 200 casualties.

They won a brilliant victory in Diah Quan region, Sokm northeast of Saigon, on Road No so from Saigon and Road No so from Saigon and Saigon, on the Saigon and Saigon, on Road No so from Saigon and S



Is this G.I. thinking of his "mission of defending freedom" in South Viet Nam?



forcement were violently attacked and had 2 battalions decimated; the enemy gun emplacements in the locality were silenced by P.L.A.F. shellings.

On June 23, a convoy of to U.S. river craft supported by aircraft was intercepted by the P.L.A.F. at 30km southeast of Saigon on June 23: 6 vessels set afire.

Ben Luc bridge, the biggest in the Melcong Delta, 25km southwest of Saigos, was blown up by the guerillas who thus cut off Highway No 4 linking Saigon to the rich rice-producing provinces in South Viet Nam.

SOUTHEAST of Da Nang, the H.Q. of Division Americal at Tam Ky town was bombarded at

O hour on June 23 and a big fire broke out with flames going up 200 metres high. A bridge near the town was also shelled: 2 vessels were damaged.

At Da Nang, the building bousing an enemy military organ was mined on June 29: 29 enemy troops killed including a colonel and two linutenant colonel.

A PUBLIC ADMISSION OF U.S. STRATEGY'S FIASCO

(Continued from page 1)

its defence network, a posi-tion worth defending at all costs, as USIS remarked costs, as USIS remarked on Feb. 15, 1968. Yet, the embarrassment of the enemy at Khe Sanh only worsened. While the 6,000 U.S. Marines were pinned down in the valley, fighting raged in Hue, Da Nang and the costal fringe of the province of the First Tactical Zone. Moreover, as the BBC commented June 28, 1968, 40,000 other G.I.'s were tied down in G.I.'s were tied down in areas close to Khe Sanh, because they had to stand ready at all times to come to the rescue of the entrenched camp. The inevitable outcome of such a state of passivity increased been sustained by the U.S. troops in this sector. In its June 16, 1968 issue, the Los Angeles Times revealed that twothirds of the U.S. casualties in South Viet Nam in this period were suffered by those units stationed in the First Tactical Zone, that is, the Marines, the air cavalrymen and the paratroops of torst Divi

The attacks and popular uprisings in the urban centres finally tipped the balance of forces in a decisive fashion at the expense of the aggresors and their puppets. While the P.L.A.F. grow rapidly in

force and were in a position to give battle anywhere and anytime, the consuny forces found themselves spread thinner than ever before over the whole territory. The short-age of man-power become painful for the U.S. Command, especially the mobile forces and strategic reserves, and threatened them with collapse. This was what prompted its decision to evacuate Khe Sash.

...BUT GETTING
OUT IS A FAR WORSE
SETBACK

IN ordering the withdrawal from Rice Sash, the enemy publicly admired the fisso of his strategy. The psychological and political effects with a more to be supported to be sup

Militarily, the evacuation of Khe Sanh broke the "an-bbbr" which held, to the West, the U.S. defence set up in northern Quang Tri. Just an a small breach is to cause the loss of a whole section of dyke during a high tide, this withdrawal is to con-

siderably weaken the enemy defence line in this area and in the northern sector of South Viet Nam. According to an Americae paper, U.S. officers early this year were of the opinion that if the Marines withdrew from Khe Sanh, they would be able to stop only until they had reached... We Charles South Proceedings of the South South

In evacuating Khe Sanh, the U.S. Command did every thing it could to try to give a slip, surrepticiously, those who were beleaguing it. But in this, it did not succeed. Capitalizing on the disarray which seized the enemy troops, the P.L.A.F. increased their pressure. The inevitable disorder and the risks arising from this precipitated removal threaten to turn the U.S. retreat into a debacle. As a matter of fact, in a week since the evacuation began, at Khe Sanh 700 and puppet soldiers were killed or wounded, and large quantities of war madestroyed. An important part of the enemy forces are still unable to pull out in spite of a whole arm of choppers at the disposal of the Americans in South Viet Nam. Everything seems to indicate that for the latter, to leave the valley which has cost them much blood in this war is as difficult as to hold